

**State Board of Education
September 15, 2009
Item H-4**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont**

TEAM: School Finance / Postsecondary Approvals

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant approval to River Valley Community College (RVCC) to amend its Certificate of Approval dated September 15, 2009 to add a location in Windsor, Vermont to deliver the Skills Through Apprenticeship Retraining (STAR) Advanced Machine Tool Technology program, and to detach the program approval from a specific federal grant, basing it instead upon the underlying fiscal status of RVCC?

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the State Board of Education grant approval to River Valley Community College (RVCC) to amend its Certificate of Approval dated September 15, 2009 to add a location in Windsor, Vermont to deliver the Skills Through Apprenticeship Retraining (STAR) Advanced Machine Tool Technology program, and to detach the program approval from a specific federal grant, basing it instead upon the underlying fiscal status of RVCC.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 16 V.S.A. §176 and 176a.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The State Board of Education is responsible for issuing Certificates of Approval and Certificates of Degree-Granting Authority, or both, to applicant postsecondary schools whose objectives, programs and resources, including personnel, curriculum, finances and facilities, are found to be adequate and appropriate for the stated purpose and for the protection of students and the public interest.

The department has verified a current occupancy permit for educational uses at the One Railroad Plaza location in Windsor, Vermont and has determined that the location is suitable for program delivery. RVCC has been a part of the publicly-supported New Hampshire Community College System since its inception in 1968 and has provided evidence of its willingness and ability to deliver the STAR program in Windsor without dependency upon the specific US Department of Labor grant on which the original Certificate of Approval was based.

COST IMPLICATIONS:

There are no fiscal impacts to the Department of Education or the state of Vermont beyond the staff time necessary to process the request and formulate this recommendation to the State Board.

STAFF AVAILABLE: Bill Talbott, Chief Financial Officer
Cathy Hilgendorf, Postsecondary Approval Coordinator

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont**

TEAM: School Finance / Postsecondary Approvals

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant a Certificate of Approval for two years, commencing September 15, 2009, to Spark Teacher Education Institute to offer graduate credit for coursework leading to teacher licensure?

<p>RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the State Board of Education Grant a Certificate of Approval for two years, commencing September 15, 2009, to Spark Teacher Education Institute to offer graduate credit for coursework leading to teacher licensure.</p>

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 16 V.S.A. §176 and 176a.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The State Board of Education is responsible for issuing Certificates of Approval and Certificates of Degree-Granting Authority, or both, to applicant postsecondary schools whose objectives, programs and resources, including personnel, curriculum, finances and facilities, are found to be adequate and appropriate for the stated purpose and for the protection of students and the public interest.

Spark Teacher Education Institute is newly organized by Educational Praxis, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in Putney, Vermont. Spark will be contracting with the School for International Training in Brattleboro VT for classroom space. Spark provides a 13-month program designed for adult learners leading to initial teacher certification.

In May 2009 Spark was granted approval from the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) after a thorough review through the Results Oriented Program Approval (ROPA) process. Spark must still apply and be approved for a Certificate of Degree-Granting Authority before it may offer Masters Degrees as is its intention.

COST IMPLICATIONS:

There are no fiscal impacts to the Department of Education or the state of Vermont beyond the staff time necessary to process the request and formulate this recommendation to the State Board.

STAFF AVAILABLE: Bill Talbott, Chief Financial Officer
Cathy Hilgendorf, Postsecondary Approval Coordinator

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont**

TEAM: School Finance / Postsecondary Approvals

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education extend until December 31, 2010 the Certificate of Degree-Granting Authority issued to Union Institute & University (UI&U) on December 19, 2007, as stipulated, UI&U having demonstrated satisfactory compliance with conditions and terms set forth for such extension?

<p>RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the State Board of Education extend until December 31, 2010 the Certificate of Degree-Granting Authority issued to Union Institute & University (UI&U) on December 19, 2007, as stipulated, UI&U having demonstrated satisfactory compliance with conditions and terms set forth for such extension.</p>

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 16 V.S.A. §176 and 176a.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The State Board of Education is responsible for issuing Certificates of Approval and Certificates of Degree-Granting Authority, or both, to applicant postsecondary schools whose objectives, programs and resources, including personnel, curriculum, finances and facilities, are found to be adequate and appropriate for the stated purpose and for the protection of students and the public interest.

The two-year Certificate of Degree-Granting Authority (CDGA) issued to Union Institute & University on December 31, 2007 allowed for a one year extension if, by September 30, 2009, UI&U demonstrated compliance with a standard set of notification and reporting conditions. Department staff has determined that UI&U is in compliance. The institution must apply for CDGA renewal before December 31, 2010.

COST IMPLICATIONS:

There are no fiscal impacts to the Department of Education or the state of Vermont beyond the staff time necessary to process the request and formulate this recommendation to the State Board.

STAFF AVAILABLE: Bill Talbott, Chief Financial Officer
Cathy Hilgendorf, Postsecondary Approval Coordinator